

Capsule Summary
SM-644
Gardiner House
Chaptico Vicinity
Private

1870-1880s

On a ridge overlooking the site of his original mill in the valley below (SM-420), local miller Alfred W. Gardiner built an impressive dwelling. Today, the dwelling's designed landscape and architectural details testify to the family's diverse yet successful commercial ventures.

Prominently situated on the outskirts of Chaptico, Maryland, the Gardiner's followed late-nineteenth century architectural conventions by employing a center passage, double-pile floor plan. Decorative emphasis was especially placed upon the entrance stair as it exhibited a scroll sawn stringer as well as a turned newel and balusters. Each of the parlors received a mantel studded by a series of knobs. Judging from architectural evidence and oral tradition, the house was modified in the early twentieth century by Alfred's son Aubrey and his wife Alice Gardiner. During this period the gable ends of the house were extended by a set of two story, three sided bays. The interior was also expanded to accommodate a kitchen and additional bedrooms on the second story.

Once a part of a larger tract called "Harrow Hills," the house and surrounding property was transferred to Aubrey and Alice Gardiner soon after Aubrey's father died in 1893. "Harrow Hills" remained in the family's ownership until the 1950s when it was sold and subsequently subdivided.

SM-644, Gardiner House
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930
Historic Period Theme:	Architecture

Resource Type

Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Rural
Historic Function and Use:	Residence
Known Design Source:	None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-644

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Harrow Hills

and/or common Gardiner House (pref.)

2. Location

street & number W. side of Yowaiski Mill Rd. approx. 0.1 mile N of int. of Mechanicsville Rd. & Yowaiski Mill Rd. **not for publication**

city, town Chaptico ☒ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county St. Mary's TM-17, G-2, P-18

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Philip McQuilkin and Susan McQuilkin

street & number 2125 Mill Rd. telephone no.: 301-872-5454

city, town Mechanicsville state and zip code Md 20659

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber EWA 693

street & number folio 371

city, town Leonardtown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-644

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Gardiner House is located near Chaptico, Maryland. Standing prominently on a hilltop overlooking Mechanicsville and Yowaiski Mill Roads, the dwelling is oriented on a north/south axis. Approached via a dirt road that curls up a steep hill from Yowaiski Mill Road, the Gardiner house is nestled among a series of deciduous trees which includes a very large buttonwood that stands to the west of the house. A matching buttonwood was once located on the east side of the house but it blew down during a wind storm. The property is marked by very stark contrasts in its organization. The front or south side of the house is characterized by its formality as it exhibits a concrete set of steps and walk that proceeds directly to the house. The steps are flanked by a pair of wrought lantern stanchions and the walk encircles a concrete birdbath. To the rear or north side, a group of outbuildings demarcate agricultural functions. They include two twentieth century tobacco barns, a chicken coop, remains of an ice house, a group of concrete bases for a water tower, a corn crib, and a shed.

The Gardiner house, itself, is a two story, three bay, center passage, double-pile plan dwelling erected in the 1870s or 1880s. Remodelled in 1903 through a two story extension with a flat roof and updated again in the 1990s, the dwelling retains architectural elements from all periods of construction. The foundation of the dwelling consists of common bond brick and c. 1903 poured concrete. The frame walls are currently covered with beaded vinyl siding and the cornice is boxed. The decorative pressed metal roof, painted black, is pierced by two interior brick chimney flues with corbelled tops.

The primary or south elevation is pierced on the first floor by a centrally located modern wood door flanked on either side by a one-over-one, double-hung sash window (all of the windows of the house are of similar sash unless further noted). A porch, supported by four plain square columns extends the full width of the elevation and shades all of the bays. A centrally located door flanked by a window on each side characterizes the fenestration of the second floor. The presence of a door reveals that a second story once featured a porch as well.

The east elevation contains different aspects of the house's three periods of construction. In 1903, the first floor of the original main block was expanded by a two story, three sided bay with each side receiving a window -- similar in detail to the projecting bay found at Long Point (SM-596). A 1990s one story addition was erected to the north of the bay window. This addition has three windows and a brick exterior end chimney. The second floor of the main block consists of the three sided bay and a paired set of windows. The attic is pierced by two windows. The 1903 two story, rear addition, obscured on the first floor by the 1990s addition, is pierced on the second story by a window.

The north or rear elevation is dominated by the two story 1903 addition. The first floor is pierced by three bays -- modern wood door, a window, and a triple set of windows. The second floor has three windows on the second floor.

The west elevation consists of the main block's gable end and the side of the 1903 addition. The 1903 addition is pierced by a window on the first and second floors. The main block features a paired set of windows on the first and second floors as well as the two story, three sided bay projection identical to the east side bay. The attic is pierced by two windows.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-644

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

On a ridge overlooking the site of his mill in the valley below (SM-420), local miller Alfred W. Gardiner built an impressive two story, frame dwelling between 1870 and 1880. Today, the dwelling's designed landscape and architectural details testify to the family's diverse yet successful commercial ventures.

Prominently situated on the outskirts of Chaptico, Maryland, the Gardiner's followed late-nineteenth century architectural conventions by employing a center passage, double-pile floor plan. Decorative emphasis was especially placed upon the entrance stair as it exhibited a scroll sawn stringer as well as a turned newel and balusters. Each of the parlors received a mantel studded by a series of knobs. Similar details were also found at Old Patuxent Farm (SM-527). Judging from architectural evidence and oral tradition, the house was modified in the early twentieth century by Alfred's son Aubrey and his wife Alice Gardiner. During this period the gable ends of the house were extended by a set of two story, three sided bays. The interior was also expanded to accommodate a kitchen and additional bedrooms on the second story. It was also during this period that the Gardiners designed the landscape around the house. This included the planting of two large buttonwood trees that flanked the house (one is still extant) and the construction of a cement walkway and stairs that led from the dirt driveway.

Once a part of a larger tract called "Harrow Hills," the house and surrounding property was transferred to Aubrey and Alice Gardiner soon after Aubrey's father died in 1893. "Harrow Hills" remained in the family's ownership until the 1950s when it was sold and subsequently subdivided.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-644

See Significance.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 14.72 acresQuadrangle name Charlotte HallQuadrangle scale 1:24 000UTM References do NOT complete UTM referencesA

Zone	Easting							Northing	

B

Zone	Easting							Northing	

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed description.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyororganization Dept. of Planning & Zoning, St. Mary'sdate 8-14-98street & number 22740 Washington Streettelephone 301-475-4662city or town Leonardtownstate Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

SM-644, Gardiner House

St. Mary's County

7.1 Description

The interior of the main block consists of a center passage, double-pile plan with a one room long rear addition. The rather wide passage is dominated by an elaborate stair that is decorated by a panelled base, octagonal newel, molded handrail, turned balusters, and scroll sawn brackets. The formal parlor is located to the west of the passage. This space features consistently used, stock door and window surrounds with a triple bead suggesting it dates from the 1903 period. A modestly detailed fireplace mantel, similar to those at Old Patuxent Farm (SM-527), graces the north wall of the space. A chamber or study lies to the north of the parlor. To the east side of the passage is the dining room. The space features nearly identical detailing but without a mantel. An interesting provision for domestic service lies just behind a door on the north wall of the space. This swinging entry leads into a curved hall that shields service from a rear chamber and leads directly into a rear passage. The main block's center passage is extended into the rear 1903 addition. This passage, however, is somewhat smaller and features a smaller stair with stock detailing which includes a turned newel and balusters. Much of the rear addition has been modified to accommodate a modern kitchen.

The second floor of the main block mirrors the plan of the first. Two bedrooms lie on each side of a central passage. A smaller mantel still survives in one chamber. It exhibits curvilinear detailing as well as several knobs that project from its otherwise plain frieze. The northwest corner bed chamber is distinguished by a large area of disturbed plaster which indicates the presence of a window that was later covered over by the rear two story addition. The second floor of the addition is segregated from the second floor of the main block. Entered through a set of French doors with a semicircular architrave, the rear addition consists of a chamber on either side of a tight stair passage. A narrow stairway in the passage leads to two unheated chambers in the attic.

SM-644, Gardiner House
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber EWA 693, Folio 371

Grantee: Philip W. McQuilken and Susan P. R. McQuilkin

Grantor: Ronald E. and Catena M. Armstrong

Date: July 1, 1992

Notes: Here the property is considered part of Armstrong Minor Subdivision recorded in plat book 36, folio 75.

Reference: Liber MRB 494, Folio 113

Grantee: Ronald E. and Catena M. Armstrong

Grantor: HSMB Holdings, Inc.

Date: September 8, 1989

Notes: Here the property is listed as containing 137.89 acres as determined by a plat made by James D. Hicks, August 1952.

Reference: Liber MRF 137, Folio 483

Grantee: Minnie Beck Goshelf et al

Grantor: Robert L. and Barbara W. Middleton

Date: November 15, 1967

Reference: Liber CBG 36, Folio 418

Grantee: Emelie Beck and Martin C. Beck

Grantor: Margaret Stevenson and Katharine Conlon

Date: April 28, 1952

Notes: Here the property is described as being part of two parcels consisting of Harrow Hills (150 acres) and "Bullet Garner's" (130 acres).

Reference: Liber CBG 17, Folio 167

Grantee: Mary Josephine Conlon, et al

Grantor: Doris C. Kernan

Date: June 1, 1945

Reference: Liber CBG 17, Folio 166

Grantee: Doris C. Kernan

Grantor: Mary Josephine Conlon

Date: June 1, 1945

Reference: Liber JMM 6, Folio 119

Grantee: Alice M. Gardiner and Mary Josephine Conlon

Grantor: Florence M. Yowaiski and Francis S. Yowaiski

Date: May 5, 1928

Notes: Here, the deed notes that the property contains "the Dwelling house, Steam, Saw, and Grist Mill."

SM-644, Gardiner House
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

Reference: Liber JMM 6, Folio 119
Grantee: Florence M. Yowaiski
Grantor: Alice M. Gardiner, widow of Aubrey S. Gardiner
Date: May 5, 1928

Reference: Liber EBA 7, Folio 215
Grantee: Alice M. and Aubrey S. Gardiner
Grantor: Mary J. McKewen
Date: June 19, 1908

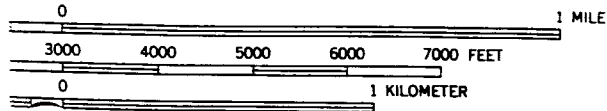
Reference: Liber EBA 7, Folio 214
Grantee: Mary J. McKewen
Grantor: Aubrey S. and Alice M. Gardiner
Date: June 19, 1908

Reference: Liber JJ 1, Folio 407
Grantee: Aubrey S. and Alice M. Gardiner
Grantor: William H. Gardiner and Rose Gynnette Gardiner
Date: December 8, 1893

Notes: The heirs of Alfred W. Gardiner, William and Rose, transfer their interests in the property called "Harrow Hills to their brother Aubrey. Due to the lack of a bean clause, the title was not traced further.

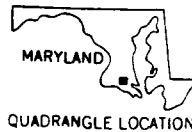


SCALE 1:24 000



INTERVAL 20 FEET
S MEAN SEA LEVEL

NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

SM-644, Gardiner House
Chaptico vicinity
St. Mary's County
Charlotte Hall Quad

E
15
-W
195







